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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SCHMIDT, et al.

Examiner:

Serial No:

Art Unit:

For: BATTERY SHEATH MADE OF FORMED COLD-ROLLED SHEET
METAL AND PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING BATTERY SHEATHS

Filed: May 11, 2001

Date: May 11, 2001

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Under 37 CFR 1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed on the filing date of the national stage entry of this patent application originating under the Patent Cooperation Treaty, so it is timely filed without payment of a fee. 37 CFR §1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25.

This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).

Three (3) foreign patent documents are listed on the attached one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08A which is made a part hereof. A copy of each is enclosed. One non-patent document is listed on the attached one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08B which is

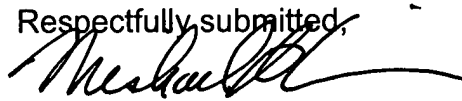
made a part hereof. Also enclosed in the filing papers, but not listed on the form, are a copy of an International Preliminary Search Report from the European Patent Office on PCT application PCT/EP99/07961, from which this US application is a national stage entry, as well as a copy of a search report from the German Patent Office on application No. 198 52 202.9, on which the PCT application is based.

The non-patent reference is a page from a German handbook of iron working, published in 1961. It is used by the German Examiner to establish that carbon oxidizes and burns between 900 and 1100 C in the absence of a protective environment.

The EPO application cited is in English and the two Japanese patent abstracts cited are also in English.

The foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is based upon the information known to the inventor or contained in the undersigned attorney's file as of the filing date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to each of the undersigned at that date. Prompt consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the references by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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